

**Minutes**  
**Delaware Council of Faith-Based Partnerships (DCFBP)**  
**June 3, 2014**  
**1-3 pm**  
**Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA)**  
**165 Brick Store Landing Road**  
**Smyrna, DE 19977**

**Attendees:** Jen Hill, Doug Gerdts, Michael Beals, Flora McConkie, Kenny Foster, Max Wolf, Usman Sandhu, John Moore.

**Guests:** Tony Lee, Senior Planner, DEMA; Gary Laing, Public Information Officer, DEMA; Marny McLee, Delaware Citizen Corps, DEMA.

The meeting was called to order by Doug at approx. 1:10 pm.

**Presentations from Delaware Emergency Management Agency.** Tony Lee presented “DEMA 101” – an overview of DEMA’s roles and responsibilities, including planning for natural and man-made disasters (chemical, radiological, technological, etc.) DEMA has response plans for everything from thunderstorms to sink holes. DEMA acts as a support to counties and towns/cities. Emergencies are local. DEMA is a resource for local governments.

DEMA coordinates the state’s management of emergency incidents; provides core planning for prevention, preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation of emergency incidents; and acts as a liaison and coordinator with local government, other state governments, and federal government. Their top priorities are protecting health and safety of the public and first responders; ensuring security of and continuity of state government; protecting and restoring critical infrastructure; and mitigating damages and impacts to individuals, communities and the environment.

DEMA would like to identify and add additional shelters to their database. The Red Cross typically acts as shelter managers.

Marny McLee discussed Citizen Corps and Community Emergency Response Team training. Citizen Corps provides education, training and volunteer opportunities to support homeland security, community preparedness and family safety. Citizen Corps offers Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) training. CERT is not a replacement for first responders, but a neighbor-helping-neighbor program, providing training and volunteer opportunities for interested individuals, communities and organizations. The training includes: Team Organization, Disaster Preparedness, Medical Operations, Fire Suppression, Disaster Psychology, Light Search and Rescue, Animals and Disaster, Terrorism.

Training is free, and available to houses of worship. Hours of training are flexible and can run for a few hours, or over a few days. Many houses of worship utilize a Friday evening/all day Saturday training, but the schedule is adaptable. Call 659-2243 for information.

Gary Laing mentioned upcoming “Planning for Needs of Children in Disasters” training that may be of interest to faith leaders. [Update: This workshop has reached its registration limit.]

“See Something, Say Something” tip line, 1-800-FORCE-1-2, can be used by citizens to report unusual or suspicious behavior.

Citizen Corps hosts two events each year: Blue Rocks Preparedness Night (Wilmington/spring) and Family Emergency Preparedness Day (Dover/fall). Marny is point of contact for both. Last year, 50 organizations/agencies/houses of worship were represented at Preparedness Day, and 1600 attended.

Emergency preparedness information is available at the following websites:

[www.dema.delaware.gov](http://www.dema.delaware.gov)  
[www.delawarecitizencorps.org](http://www.delawarecitizencorps.org)  
[www.preparedde.org](http://www.preparedde.org)  
[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

**Discussion regarding upcoming Emergency Preparedness and Response Workshop to be held Wednesday, June 18, 2014, from 11:30 am to 3 pm.** Poster and handouts were used at recent Blue Rocks game. Deadline for registration extended to June 10<sup>th</sup>. Governor may be able to stop in for a few minutes. Two representatives from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) plan to attend: Reverend David Myers, Director of the Department of Homeland Security’s Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, and Marcus Coleman, Special Assistant. The Center is based in FEMA. Rev. Myers is also a Senior Advisor to the FEMA Administrator. Rev. Myers will speak for a few minutes at the workshop and will provide copies of FEMA’s preparedness guide for houses of worship. They learned of the event through a regional FEMA office in Philadelphia, who learned of it through DEMA.

Jen, Doug, Flora, Max, and Usman plan to attend. Usman to provide lunch sponsored by Islamic Society of Central Delaware. Brief review of proposed agenda and current registrations (25). A one-page overview of the Council will be provided to each attendee. DEMA to provide two-pocket folders, various handouts, DVD, pens, etc. Council to provide legal pads and water bottles. DEMA will issue media advisory and will take photos of workshop. Text of registration email below.

**Approval of April and May meeting minutes.**

**Next meeting.** Tuesday, July 1, 2014, 1-3 pm, Delaware State Housing Authority.

Meeting adjourned at approx. 2:40 pm, followed by a tour of DEMA.

Submitted by Flora McConkie, DCFBP Secretary, June 30, 2014.

**Text of email sent to potential workshop attendees:**

*Thank you for your interest in the Emergency Preparedness Workshop for Faith Leaders!*

*To complete the registration process, please confirm (and complete) the following information, and answer the questions below by replying to this email:*

*Name:*

*Your House of Worship:*

*Address for Your House of Worship:*

*Your Leadership Role or Title:*

*Your Phone Number:*

*Your Email:*

*Does your house of worship currently have an emergency preparedness plan? (Feel free to provide details, or to answer yes, no, or a partial plan or it's in the works.)*

*How did you hear about this event?*

*Prior to the event, you will receive a follow-up email with specifics on directions, parking, etc. Please feel free to call or email me if you have any questions.*

*We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am!*

*Warm regards,*

*Flora McConkie (302) 633-4825*

*Secretary, Delaware Council of Faith-Based Partnerships*